

About the Author

Roberta Clark was born and raised in Washington, IA, a daughter of John H. and Martha (Swift) Wheelan. She attended country school at Washington No. 4 School and graduated from Washington High School in 1941. She completed an associate degree at Washington Junior College in 1943 and graduated from the University of Iowa in 1944 with a degree in journalism. She was a member of the editorial staff of the university's student newspaper, *The Daily Iowan*, at a time when all the top posts were held by women. The paper was the first in the Iowa City region to break the news of the D-Day landings.

She married Robert D. Clark of Arenzville at the Quonset Point (RI) Naval Air Station on December 29, 1944, where he was completing training as a carrier-based fighter pilot. After he returned from active duty in the Pacific during World War II, they lived near Arenzville, IL, and raised a family of eight children.

While her children were still in grade school and college, Roberta completed course requirements for teacher certification, including student teaching, and was employed as a high school English teacher from 1965 to 1980, first in Beardstown, and later at Triopia Jr.-Sr. High near Concord, IL.

Robert was engaged in farming and worked for many years at the First National Bank of Arenzville. He died on March 20, 1989. A few years later, in 2005, Roberta moved to Clark-Lindsey Village, a retirement community in Urbana, IL. She enjoyed meeting new friends and sharing similar interests with the residents there, including working in the library and writing for *The Village Voice*. Her final years were joyful, filled with family gatherings and an occasional travel adventure. She died on November 11, 2020 and is lovingly remembered by family, friends and former students.

Table of Contents

About the Author	i
Table of Contents	i
Introduction	xi
Nature	1
Aiding and Abetting	3
Malingering Moss	3
Poppies	3
April Renaissance	4
At the Feeder	5
August Evening	6
Autumn	7
Baby Bird	8
Come and Get it	9
Cuckoo Tree	10
Death of an Aged Aunt	11
Elderflower Wine	12
Frozen Red	13
Gardener's Shrug	14
Hunting Season	15
Ice Storm	16
January Thaw	16
March Treetops	17
Nature's Needlework	18
Melancholy Wind	20
Morning in May	21
Pastoral Patronizing	22
The Plowman	22
Perseverance	23
Play School	23
Questions for a Mockingbird	24
A Ramble in Brambles	25
Riding in the Rain	28
Spring Outfits	29
Spring Wind	30

Sunflowers	30
Trade-Off.....	31
Troublemaker (or Teacher?)	32
Troublemaker (or Teacher?)	32
Vacation	33
Walnut Trees.....	34
Untitled (Autumn's Great)	35
Untitled (Flashes of Orange)	35
Untitled (Bluejay)	35
Untitled (Through the Starkness).....	36
Untitled (Tufted Titmouse)	37
Untitled (The Pack of Storm Clouds).....	37
Untitled (Why Are the Woods so Quiet Today)	38
March.....	39
The Red, Red Robbin'	40
May Maxim	40
Religious	41
Untitled (From out a book,...)	43
Mission Accomplices.....	44
Salvation's Trumpet	45
By the Window on St. Patrick's Day.....	46
That's Not What You Meant, is it, Lord?.....	47
Sing Praise	49
Song of the Needy.....	51
The Newlyweds' Invitation	52
The Humble Worshipper (to Tony)	53
Hear My Voice.....	54
Daily Prayer from Psalm 86.....	55
Earthen Vessels.....	56
Gift of the morning	57
Hope.....	57
The Stumbler's Supplication	58
Harvest Prayer	59
A Sound Like Snowing	60
God's Promise	61
Twilight Thanksgiving.....	62
Circle of Love.....	63

I Lift Mine Eyes.....	64
Sing Honor.....	65
Thanksgiving Song.....	66
Senses of Christmas	67
Christmas Gifts.....	68
Untitled (Turn to the Help of the Savior).....	69
Sermon from the Shadows	70
Sunset Silhouette.....	72
Minute Meditations.....	72
Untitled (Your day, this day).....	74
Untitled (Your Eyes May Wander).....	75
A Child's Request	76
Farewell to a Friend	77
Untitled (That Chattering Bird).....	78
A Father Sees	79
The House Lights Dim	80
Ascension Thursday	81
God's Sun	82
Yule Fire	82
A Parent's Petitions.....	85
Untitled (The Day of Asking).....	86
Untitled (The Arms of the Morning).....	87
The Novice Shepherd.....	88
Untitled (The Trees Let Fall).....	89
Memo to the Lord.....	90
Untitled (On this Day of Thy Bounty).....	90
Untitled (I Cannot Do It)	90
Untitled (That Our Loved Ones Stay Near Thee)	91
Untitled (Heaven's Harvest).....	91
Hand of the Lord.....	92
Serious	93
A Boy Had a Horse	95
Calliopes and Carousels	96
The Comic Juggler	97
Forget.....	98
Gossip.....	98
Henriot Quimper.....	99

Hope.....	100
The Lazy Irish Washerwoman	101
Riverside Reverie	101
Spring Housecleaning.....	102
The Rented Room	102
Revenge	103
Regret.....	104
“You and Him Fight”	105
Solidarity Slumbers	106
To the Women from Madame du Farge	106
Television	107
Washerwoman.....	108
Worry	109
Untitled (Water Flows Faster).....	110
Attempt at a Sonnet	111
Home is the Plowman	112
Retirement	113
Stories	115
Auction Sale Today.....	117
Marriage Rehearsal.....	118
The Harvest Too Early	118
Iowa Recollections	120
Untitled (I Hesitate Here).....	121
What Has Made the Difference?	122
Untitled (My Love Looked Down)	123
Untitled (Remember When You Said).....	125
Sad Song.....	126
Lonely Echoes.....	127
Humor & Light Verse	129
Cash Flow	131
Untitled (Improve My Mind).....	131
Untitled (Sprawled on the Floor)	132
Untitled (Grabbing Lunch)	132
Untitled (This Old Idea).....	132
Untitled (End of April)	132
Untitled (Sick of Filing).....	133

Untitled (Your Fancy)	133
Untitled (Would You Believe?)	133
Untitled (The Riotous Bloom)	133
Untitled (Friends for Tea).....	134
Untitled (The Dentist)	134
Untitled (Alienated Affections).....	134
Untitled (Garage Sale Trips).....	134
Untitled (Stacked Cordwood)	135
Bothers Father	135
Untitled (Considering the Balance).....	135
Untitled (Keeping My Silence)	136
Untitled (Wishing).....	136
Untitled (Round or Flat).....	136
Barely Shod	136
Untitled (Handling Gossips)	137
NOW?.....	137
Abracadabra.....	137
Untitled (Turning 21)	138
Rights of Passage	138
Untitled (Nest Egg).....	138
There's a Point!.....	139
Winter Wife	139
Leftovers	139
Readin', Writin' and Woes	140
Don't Get Choked Up.....	140
They Haven't a Clue	140
OHEC Decision.....	141
Untitled (Why?)	141
Untitled (The Election).....	141
Mumbo-Gumbo	142
Untitled (Paying Bills).....	143
Untitled (Our House).....	143
Untitled (Disregard)	143
Untitled (Specialist's Opinion)	143
Untitled (Sales Tip).....	144
Untitled (Coping).....	144
Untitled (Learned it On TV).....	144
Untitled (Hydroponic).....	144

Untitled (Retirement)	145
Untitled (Prayer in School).....	145
Untitled (Precious Energy)	145
Untitled (Appreciating Spelling).....	145
Untitled (Another Survey).....	146
Self-Denial?	146
Untitled (Collectibles)	146
Flicks Chicks.....	147
Caffeind	147
Cure for Backache	148
What's On Your Mind?.....	148
Maybe Mild Manners Pay?	149
Class Reunion	149
Antique Hunter's Find	150
November 1872	151
Untitled (Klepto)	151
Untitled (Watching Football)	152
After Math	152
Untitled (Avast and Ahoy).....	153
Untitled (Crying at Weddings)	153
Untitled (Fast Trips)	154
Summer of '81.....	154
Untitled (Bathing Beauties).....	155
Untitled (A Dieter's Quest)	155
Untitled (Election Day).....	156
A Pressing Concern	156
Gal On the Burnout Kick	157
Untitled (Car Maintenance)	157
Untitled (When We Dine)	158
Robin Hood	158
Untitled (Ouch)	159
Untitled (Pick-up Trucks).....	159
Officiency	160
Untitled (The Public Figure)	160
Untitled (Assets)	161
Untitled (Hand Me-Ups)	161
Smooth Sale-ing	161
Broken Engagement.....	162

Gardener's Grumble	162
Untitled (Parent Trap).....	163
Untitled (Living Wages).....	163
Untitled (Trip to the Sun).....	163
Untitled (Star Wars)	164
The Engineer's Spouse	164
Happy Birthday Verse	165
Anniversary	166
Baby Goes Off to School	167
Emily? Amy?.....	167
Honest John	167
To Annis	167
Lavatory Lament	168
Moon Dreams	169
Smooth or Crunchy	169
The Happy Triple.....	170
An Early Light (To Jeff)	171
The Class of '41 is Still Around	172
Hubberville.....	175
Old Moves Up	176
Egotistical Bore	176
Glass Ceiling	177
Gender Bias.....	177
Under My House	179
I'm Trying to Teach Here.....	181
Semester Test	183
Children's Poetry	185
To Judy	187
Untitled (No Bell)	187
Untitled (I Talk to Cats and Kittens).....	188
Untitled (Big Baby).....	188
Untitled (In Time Out).....	189
Untitled (The Tongue of a Toad).....	190
Untitled (Coming Down with Something).....	191
Untitled (What Would Jesus Do?).....	191
Untitled (Fourteen Feet of Earthworms)	192
Breakfast Table Poem	193

Limericks	195
Haiku	199
Spring	201
<i>Robin</i>	201
<i>Untitled (Spring's Parade)</i>	201
<i>Untitled (Spring-filled Stream)</i>	202
<i>Untitled (Daughter of Ceres)</i>	202
<i>Untitled (Gift of Rainy Myrrhs)</i>	202
<i>Spring</i>	202
<i>Untitled (Plump Raindrops)</i>	202
<i>Untitled (Shaking in the Trees)</i>	203
<i>Untitled (Across the Hills)</i>	203
<i>Untitled (The Cardinal)</i>	203
<i>Cardinal</i>	203
Easter	204
<i>Lily</i>	204
<i>Untitled (Easter Lily 2)</i>	204
<i>Untitled (Good Friday)</i>	204
Rain	205
<i>Untitled (Riding in the Rain)</i>	205
<i>Untitled (Before the Rain)</i>	205
<i>Untitled (Waterfall)</i>	205
<i>Untitled (Raindrops)</i>	205
<i>Untitled (Droplets)</i>	206
<i>After the Rain</i>	206
<i>Untitled (After the Rain 2)</i>	206
Summer	207
<i>Untitled (Wheat Fields)</i>	207
<i>Untitled (Poppies)</i>	207
<i>Untitled (Summer's End)</i>	207
<i>Untitled (Bare Tree)</i>	208
<i>Untitled (Silver Maples)</i>	208
July	208
<i>Untitled (Katydid)</i>	208
<i>Gladiolus</i>	209
<i>Untitled (Intruder)</i>	209
<i>Untitled (Weeping Willows)</i>	209
<i>Untitled (July Evening)</i>	209

August	210
<i>Untitled (Thunderstorm)</i>	210
<i>Untitled (Butterflies)</i>	210
<i>Untitled (Locusts)</i>	210
Autumn	211
<i>Cobwebs</i>	211
<i>Untitled (Leaf Raking)</i>	211
<i>Untitled (First Snow)</i>	211
September	212
<i>Untitled (Buzzards)</i>	212
October	212
<i>Untitled (Sunflowers)</i>	212
<i>Untitled (Autumn Cobwebs)</i>	213
<i>Untitled (Autumn)</i>	213
<i>Untitled (Indian Summer)</i>	213
November	214
<i>Untitled (Leaves)</i>	214
<i>Untitled (Flying South)</i>	214
<i>Untitled (Foxtails)</i>	214
<i>Untitled (The Flocks)</i>	214
Winter	216
<i>Sentry</i>	216
<i>Untitled (Lonely Flower)</i>	216
<i>Ice Storm</i>	216
<i>Untitled (Thawing)</i>	217
<i>Snow</i>	217
<i>Ice</i>	217
At the Bird Feeder	218
<i>February Finch</i>	219
<i>Fighting Goldfinch</i>	219
Miscellaneous Nature	219
<i>Untitled (Sunflowers)</i>	219
<i>Untitled (Sweet Gum Tree)</i>	220
<i>Untitled (Crown Vetch)</i>	220
<i>Untitled (Life's Journey)</i>	220
<i>Rodeo Riders</i>	220
<i>Stars</i>	221
<i>Untitled (Industrious Mole)</i>	221
<i>Moon</i>	221
<i>Untitled (The Train)</i>	221
<i>Untitled (Clouds)</i>	222

Not Nature Haiku 222
Untitled (War) 222
Untitled (Baby Powder) 222

Mom & Dad and Sometimes Sad 223

Independence 225
Paradise Parties 226
First Widow’s Dream..... 228
Bittersweet Bereavement..... 229
Various Father’s Day Verses 230
 Father’s Day 230
 Father’s Day #2 230
 Father’s Day #3 230
 Father’s Day #4 231
 From All of Us 231
 Father’s Day #5 231
 Father’s Day #6 232
 Father’s Day #7 232
 Father’s Day #8 233
 To Dad 233
To Dad 234
Untitled (Tomorrow’s Plow) 235
To Mother and Dad..... 236
Untitled (Who Else But You) 237
The Gift 237
Mother-Light 239
To Be Like Her 241
To My Father 242
To Mom: Pocket Treasures 243
To Mother: Over the Rainbow 244
Untitled (Memory Lapse) 245
To Bob, My Valentine..... 246
Virtue – for Bob..... 247
Untitled (Twilight) 249

Acknowledgments 251